

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04928 031041Z

22

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 JUSE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 IO-11 EB-07 NRC-07

/109 W

----- 046498

R 021320Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5074

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4928

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TECH., IN, US

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS REPORTS SHIPMENT OF US NUCLEAR FUEL DELAYED

THE FOLLOWING STORY DATED IN WASHINGTON APRIL 1 BY WARREN UNNA  
APPEARED IN THE APRIL 2 EDITION OF THE STATESMAN: QUOTE:

THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) HAS REFUSED TO  
ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT BY INDIA AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR  
URGENT APPROVAL OF ENRICHED URANIUM SHIPMENTS TO REFUEL THE  
U.S. BUILT INDIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT REACTOR AT TARAPUR,  
OUTSIDE BOMBAY.

"INSTEAD, THE NRC, IN A RULING ON MARCH 26, DECIDED TO GIVE  
FURTHER HEARING TO THE PROTESTS OF THE THREE U.S. SCIENTIFIC  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS THAT THE REFUELLING SHIPMENTS  
BE HELD UP IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION  
AND POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF THE ENRICHED URANIUM END-PRODUCT  
INTO NUCLEAR WEAPONRY.

"THE NRC DECISION WAS HANDED DOWN JUST DAYS BEFORE  
THE MARCH 31 DEADLINE SET AS THE LAST POSSIBLE TIME FOR  
THE U.S. 'YELLOW CAKE' TO REACH INDIA'S FUEL  
REPROCESSING PLANT IN HYDERABAD. ONCE THE YELLOW CAKE  
ARRIVES, IT MUST BEGIN A SIX-MONTH REPROCESSING CYCLE FOR  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 04928 031041Z

FABRICATION INTO THE FUEL RODS NECESSARY TO REPLACE THOSE

WHICH SOON ARE DUE TO BURN OUT IN THE TARAPUR POWER PLANT.  
"ASKED FOR COMMENT, DR. M. ANANDAKRISHNAN, SCIENCE COUNSELLOR  
FOR THE INDIAN EMBASSY HERE, SAID: " IT CERTAINLY IS GOING TO  
UPSET OUR TIME SCHEDULE. HYDERABAD WILL HAVE TO MAKE  
SOME MAKESHIFT ARRANGEMENT FOR SCRAP AND, EVENTUALLY, IT IS GOING  
TO CATCH UP WITH US. IF NEXT MONSOON IS FAVORABLE, TARAPUR  
WILL HAVE LESS POWER DEMAND AND COULD GET ONE--ON A REDUCED  
LOAD-- FOR A FEW MONTHS. IF THE MONSOON IS DELAYED, OR COMES  
TOO EARLY, THEN WE WILL HAVE HAD IT. AND ONCE THIS HAPPENS,  
AND GUJARAT AND MAHARASHTRA LOSE A GOOD PART OF THEIR POWER  
SUPPLY, THERE WILL BE A BIG FUSS ALL OVER INDIA."

"HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE NRC DECISION OPENED THE WAY  
FOR AN INDEFINITE SERIES OF LEGAL MANOEUVRES AND HEARINGS WITH  
NO CLEAR INDICATION OF WHEN, OR HOW, IT WOULD END.

"STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ALSO EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE WITH  
THE NRC DECISION, ALTHOUGH THEY, IN THE INTEREST OF CREDIBILITY,  
DECIDED TO MODIFY THEIR ORIGINAL MARCH 31"ABSOLUTE" DEADLINE  
FOR THE YELLOW CAKE DELIVERY TO HYDERABAD. INSTEAD,  
THEY DECLARED IT WOULD BE THE 'PRUDENT' TARGET TIME FOR  
DELIVERY OF THE ENRICHED URANIUM REFUELLING SHIPMENT IN  
ORDER TO AVOID A 10 PERCENT POWER CUT IN WESTERN INDIA.  
"AT THE TIME OF NRC HEARING TESTIMONY WAS INTRODUCED  
QUOTING DR. KISSINGER ON THE OBLIGATION OF THE USA TO FULFIL  
ITS COMMITMENTS FOR REFUELLING THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IT  
HELPS OTHER NATIONS BUILD. DR. KISSINGER AND OTHER STATE  
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, ALSO HAVE DECLARED THAT SINCE INDIA  
FULLY COMPLY WITH THE SAFEGUARDS ESTABLISHED TO PREVENT  
ANY MILITARY MISUSE OF TARAPUR'S NUCLEAR END-PRODUCTS, A  
U.S. DEFAULT AT THIS STAGE WOULD EFFECT U.S. CREDIBILITY  
REGARDING ITS COMMITMENTS TO REFUEL U.S. BUILT NUCLEAR  
PLANTS-- NOT JUST IN INDIA-- BUT EVERYWHERE ABROAD.

"BUT DESPITE THE PLEAS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES  
OF BOTH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE, THE NRC, WHICH ENJOYS THE STATUS OF AN INDEPENDENT  
U.S. REGULATORY COMMISSION, HAS DECIDED NOT TO BE RUSHED  
INTO A DECISION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 04928 031041Z

"THE CHALLENGE AGAINST REFUELLING SHIPMENTS TO TARAPUR HAS  
BEEN BROUGHT BY THREE PRIVATE U.S. GROUPS: THE SIERRA  
CLUB, THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENCE COUNCIL, AND THE UNION  
OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS. IT IS THE FIRST SUCH CHALLENGE  
REGARDING THE EXPORT OF U.S. ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL EVER TO  
HAVE BROUGHT BEFORE EITHER THE NRC OR ITS  
PREDECESSOR, THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.  
"AND SINCE THIS IS A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR WITH

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS AND VERY MUCH A POLITICAL  
CAMPAIGN TOPIC, THE ISSUE IS DOMESTICALLY CONTROVERSIAL  
AND THE NRC, COMPOSED OF POLITICAL APPOINTEES, PRESUMABLY  
WANTS TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY. " END QUOTE.SCHNEIDER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, EXPORTS, URANIUM, NUCLEAR FUELS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976NEWDE04928  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760126-0210  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t197604104/aaaadldi.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** oatisao  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by oatisao>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDIAN PRESS REPORTS SHIPMENT OF US NUCLEAR FUEL DELAYED THE FOLLOWING STORY DATED WASHINGTON APRIL 1 BY WARREN UNNA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TECH, IN, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006